

Appln. No. 10/729,532
Amendment dated August 17, 2006
Reply to Non-Final Office Action of April 17, 2006

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AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as indicated below.

1. (Currently amended) A method for energy management comprising:
receiving energy rating data at an on-premise processor transmitted by a distribution network from a host processor and storing the energy rating data in a memory, the rating data including a schedule pertaining to time and energy costs;
receiving at the on-premise processor a message ~~communicated using an 802.15.4-based wireless communication link~~ from a power load controller requesting energy rating data, wherein the message is communicated using a wireless communication link, the wireless communication link relaying the message through at least one other power load controller;
retrieving the energy rating data from the memory and sending a response message including the energy rating data using the ~~802.15.4-based wireless communications link~~ from the on-premise processor to the power load controller;
and
determining in the power load controller whether to generate an activation signal based at least in part on the energy rating data.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the activation signal activates a power load.
3. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the activation signal activates a power generator.
4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the energy rating data further comprises a first time period associated with a first usage rate and a second time period associated with a second usage rate.

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5. (Currently amended) The method of claim 2 wherein the power load controller determines whether to activate the power load ~~[[is]]~~ based further at least in part on the current time.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the distribution network transmits the rating data wirelessly.
7. (Original) The method of claim 6 wherein the distribution network transmits the rating data wirelessly using an 802.15.4- based communications link.
8. (Currently amended) A method for energy management, comprising:
sending an energy rate request message from an appliance, wherein the request message is communicated using a 802.15.4-based wireless communication link, the wireless communication link relaying the message through at least one other appliance;
receiving an energy rate schedule at the appliance using the ~~802.15.4~~ based wireless communication link, the energy rate schedule comprising a first time period for a first usage rate and a second time period for a second usage rate; and
determining in the appliance whether to activate a power load based in part on the energy rate schedule and a current time.
9. (Currently amended) The method of claim 6 further comprising~~[[:]]~~ storing the energy rate schedule in a memory in the appliance.

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10. (Currently amended) A method for energy management comprising:
receiving at an on-premise processor a first request message ~~communicated using an~~
~~802.15.4-based wireless communication link~~ from a power load controller
pertaining to energy rating data, wherein the first request message is
communicated using a wireless communication link, the wireless communication
link relaying the first request message through at least one other power load
controller;
sending from the on-premise processor a second request message over a
distribution network to the host processor, the second request message
pertaining to energy rating data;
receiving at the on-premise processor a first rating response message over the
distribution network from the host processor, ~~the second request~~ first rating
response message including energy rating data;
sending from the on-premise processor to the power load controller a second rating
response message using the ~~802.15.4-based wireless communication link,~~
the second rating response message including the energy rating data; and
determining in the power load controller whether to generate an activation signal based at
least in part on the energy rating data.
11. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 10 wherein the activation
signal activates a power load.
12. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 10 wherein the activation signal
activates a power generator.
13. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 11 wherein the power load
controller further determines whether to activate the power load based on the current time.

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14. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 10 wherein the energy rating data comprises a first time period associated with a first usage rate and a second time period associated with a second usage rate.

15. (Currently amended) The ~~system~~ method of claim 11 wherein the power load activated is one from the group of an air conditioning unit, an induction motor, a compressor, and a heating load.

16-74. (Canceled)

75. (New) The method of claim 1, wherein the wireless communications link further comprises an 802.15.4-based wireless communications protocol.

76. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the wireless communications link further comprises an 802.15.4-based wireless communications protocol.

77. (New) The method of claim 10, wherein the wireless communications link further comprises an 802.15.4-based wireless communications protocol.